

which was later identified for me by Mr. Frank M. Chapman, to whom I sent it, as *Melospiza lincolni*.

This, I believe, is the first known instance of the occurrence of the species in New Brunswick. — WILLIE H. MOORE, *Scotch Lake, N. B.*

**Rank of the Sage Sparrow.** — On page 58 of the current volume of 'The Auk,' Mr. Joseph Grinnell states that he found *Amphispiza belli* and *Amphispiza belli nevadensis* inhabiting the same locality at the head of the Little Tujunga Cañon, Los Angeles County, California, in July, 1897. This area is on the western slope of the divide, though not more than ten miles from the Mohave Desert. Mr. Grinnell further states that he has never learned of any intermediate specimens between the two forms, and consequently argues that they are specifically distinct.

On the Death Valley Expedition in 1891, Mr. Frank Stephens collected a number of specimens on the eastern slope of the Sierras, opposite the south end of Owens Lake, which I reported as being intermediate in color and size (N. Am. Fauna, No. 7, p. 98).

Taking this into consideration and the fact that *Amphispiza b. nevadensis* had evidently wandered from their desert home, as Mr. Grinnell writes me they were fully fledged, I cannot agree with him that there is any reason for considering the two forms more than subspecifically distinct. — A. K. FISHER, *Washington, D. C.*

**Wintering of the Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) at Rockaway Beach, L. I.** — On the 29th of January, 1898, I made a collecting trip to Rockaway Beach in the hope of seeing some winter birds, as the weather had been very cold for several days, and on the day in question the air was full of flying snow. While passing through a small thicket of brambles I felt sure I heard the Towhee's note, and started in to investigate. Although he was exceedingly wild, I at length caught a glimpse of him, and by remaining quiet for some time eventually secured him. Later in the day, I found three more, all males, as was the one I shot. It is quite evident that this bird occasionally winters much further north than is generally supposed, as there are also records from Longwood, Mass., on Christmas, and Bedford, Mass., on Jan. 2 (Auk, July, 1896).

Mr. L. S. Foster informs me that he secured a specimen on Feb. 22, near Oradell, N. J. — HARRY WEBB FLOYD, *New York City*.

**The Rose-breasted Grosbeak in California.** — During a collecting trip last summer in northern California, Dr. C. H. Gilbert and a party of students secured some birds that were new to the fauna of the State. While at Meyer's, Humboldt Co., Cal., July 1, 1897, the attention of the party was attracted by a string of strange birds that had been shot sometime before and were already in the early stages of decomposition. Not being able to decide what the birds were, several heads were cut off,